A webinar on “Contaminants in milk and milk products” was organized by Alumni Association, SRS of ICAR-NDRI, Bengaluru on 28th Aug 2020 through zoom online platform. Dr. Manoj Kudupoje, Research Scientist, Alltech, USA who worked several years on food contamination and amelioration delivered the talk. Dr. K.P. Ramesha, President, Alumni Association and Head, SRS of ICAR-NDRI, Bengaluru welcomed all the participants to the guest lecture. Dr. M.S. Chauhan, Director, ICAR-NDRI, Karnal in his opening remarks stated that the topic chosen is appropriate to the context and urged scientists and industry to work together in producing and marketing safe dairy products in the country. He further opined that such guest lectures would enhance awareness among professionals and help to make available safe products to consumers. He complimented the Alumni Association for arranging the guest lecture. Dr. Manoj Kudupoje in his lecture gave an overall view of food contamination in India vis-a-vis other countries which suggested India needs improvement. Then, he systematically brought out various sources of contaminants in milk and milk products and categorized them as microbial, chemicals like pesticides, antibiotic, heavy metals, additives and mycotoxins. He has also cited some of the recent data on the contaminants in milk. He further cautioned that in India there are high chances of contamination of food in general and milk and milk products in particular. Dr. Kudupoje struck a positive note by suggesting that we need to be more vigilant and alert and argued for emphatic role of organizations like FSSAI, NGOs and consumer forums. After the lecture, some of the participants responded and agreed that India is yet to ensure contaminants free food products to consumers.

The guest lecture was attended by over 190 participants including scientists, alumni, former vice chancellors, students, professionals from industry such as Heritage Dairy, Dodla dairy etc.